



MINUTES

MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

June 1, 2011

Time: Teams Meet at 5:00-6:15PM * Large MAC meeting 6:15-7:30PM

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), S. Anderson, J. Higham, J. Goldman, L. Dahn, S. Baxter (staff), R. Leclerc (staff), E. Soffer Roberts, A. Bloom, P. Braithwaite, E. Tullman, Yujin Kim (guest), MJ Newman, C. Guerreri,
REGRETS: J. Suedmeyer, S. Daly, G. Bent, J. Stoughton, V. Fry

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
Call to Order	<p>Welcome and Announcements – S. Baxter called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. She called members' attention to the photo exhibit in the hallway. Sandy explained that the Vice-Chairs were both unable to attend today's meeting.</p> <p>Minutes of 5/4/11</p> <p>Sandy's Assistant: hiring update: S. Baxter reported that interviews will be taking place for three candidates on June 6 with Sandy, Kevin and Jessica Higham.</p> <p>S. Baxter announced that she will be retiring as of October 1. J. Goldman suggested that Sandy start developing a list of all of the things that she is responsible for.</p> <p>S. Baxter distributed information about the Summer Meal program in Windham and asked members to distribute the information.</p>	<p>Minutes were approved unanimously as written.</p> <p>Contact Sandy if you would like to be included in the interview process.</p> <p>Get ideas about job requirements, qualities, experience, etc. to S. Baxter or K. Grunwald to assist with developing a job description. Staff will send out the current job description and attachments.</p>
Long Range Planning	<p>S. Baxter facilitated a discussion re: the overall work of MAC, work of the Teams, infrastructure required to support this, and how this all serves the Plan. The School Readiness grant is also a responsibility of this Collaborative that needs to be addressed. There are specific requirements that need to be met for this grant.</p> <p>Each of the Teams are responsible for specific initiatives, that need to be clearly identified.</p>	

	<p>Infrastructure includes staff, membership & recruitment, bylaws, publicity data, and ad hoc committees. A. Bloom raised a concern as to whether or not the current structure supports the actual work that needs to be done; do we need to change the way that we meet, and why are there often members missing from the table? Is this the most productive way for us to be working? If requests for tasks came out when they were needed it might be a more efficient way of getting things done rather than trying to do all of the work in committees. J. Higham feel that there is validity to meeting less frequently, but we need to have people who are set up to do the work that needs to be done. E. Tullman said that as a new member it's important to understand the "big picture" before being able to figure out where and how they fit in to what needs to be done. E. Soffer Roberts said that it took her at least 3 meetings to begin to understand the work of MAC. C. Guerreri questioned whether or not that learning takes place in the large meeting, or does it happen through another member? A. Bloom said that she feels connected to the Team that she's involved with, but attendance at the large meeting feels less valuable. J. Higham feels that the Executive Council needs to take more responsibility for what the full group does. MJ Newman feels that we need more members to do the work of the collaborative, or perhaps we need to take on fewer things. We should concentrate on those things where we can really make an impact. S. Baxter would like to see members take on responsibility for orienting new members to MAC to address the reality of the learning curve. J. Goldman feels that this is a period of big change with Sandy leaving, and the collaborative will need to continue to meet monthly during this time of transition. A. Bloom feels that this should be decided by the Executive Council, but with input from the members. J. Higham feels that if we are considering making a change, then we need to look at making sure that we are supporting parent involvement, including looking at the time of the meeting. S. Anderson suggested that quarterly meetings would allow more flexibility for times when teams meet. C. Guerreri reminded us that we have TA funds to hire a consultant to assist us with addressing these issues. J. Higham pointed to the importance of the Executive Council to get feedback from members prior to making decision. C. Guerreri pointed out that the Graustein Fund definitely supports a community-decision making process. Several members spoke to the importance of orienting new team members, starting with a sheet of acronyms. J. Higham questioned how realistic it is to expect more work from the Center Directors. J. Goldman spoke to the importance of having members at special events, and</p>	<p>Contact Julie Suedmeyer to explore resources to provide technical assistance around these issues.</p>
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	<p>that we need more parents from all of the elementary schools to assist with these to get information out and recruit. K. Grunwald suggested that the Executive Council meet with a consultant over the summer and have this individual pull the entire MAC group together to refine this prior to the end of August.</p> <p>S. Baxter added that we need to look more closely at how we are using our partners and what is encompassed in our MOU's.</p>	J. Goldman would like someone to work with her on the tri-fold brochure to assist with recruitment at special events.
Community Conversation	Involving volunteers from C. Conversation –match suggested initiatives with Teams and new priorities (facebook, webpage, social network):	No discussion.
Community Consultant for social network	Report about conversation with consultant: K. Grunwald reported that he has contacted an IT consultant who has developed a social networking tool for the Town that can be adapted to our uses. The consultant will be meeting with the Executive Council to discuss this on June 23.	
ECE Photo Exhibit	Opportunity for ECE Photo Exhibit Reception-Town Council Meeting on June 13 th 7:15PM: S. Baxter announced that the photo exhibit needs to come down for the budget referendum on June 14, but can be put back after that. K. Grunwald and E. Soffer Roberts agreed to staff the reception for the Town Council on June 13. Sandy is attempting to get photos and quotes from Board of Ed. And Town Council members. C. Guerreri suggested adding the Results Statement to the display.	Contact S. Baxter if you would like to include a quote with the exhibit.
Co-Chair Recruitment	Terms 3 years- Term for present co-chairs up next year	No discussion.
Celebration and Sharing Dinner	Community Conversation Celebration and Sharing Dinner on Thursday, June 30, 2011 at 5:30 PM in Hamden at the Graustein Offices	No discussion.
Announcements	SRTS: K. Grunwald reported that as an element of the Safe Routes to Schools application, 104 parents from Southeast School responded to surveys regarding the perceived benefits and concerns re: walking to school. This is a very good rate of return, and the survey data will be used as a part of the application.	
Adjournment/ Next Meetings	<p>Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM. The next full MAC meeting will be <u>Wednesday, August 3, 2011, Town Hall –Council Chambers at:</u></p> <p><u>5:00PM</u> Team meetings</p> <p><u>6:30PM</u> full MAC meeting</p> <p>Next Executive Council meeting June 23, 2011 at 1:15 in Conference Room B.</p>	Agenda topics: please send to Sandy

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Grunwald